

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF **BELARUS**

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Mining in Belarus consisted primarily of extracting potash from the Starobinsk deposit, peat at deposits throughout the country, and some construction materials. Belarus also extracted some petroleum and natural gas. In 1998, Belarus was the world's fourth largest potash producer (U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 1999). The country's metallurgical enterprises included a steel minimill in Zhlobin and a steel pipe plant in Mahilyow (formerly Mogilev). The country also has a large diamond cutting and synthetic diamond production industry, a nitrogen production enterprise, a fertilizer production plant, and

a large petroleum-refining sector with refineries at Mazyr and Navapolatsk with a combined capacity to produce 40 million metric tons per year of petroleum products. Owing to its lack of domestic resources, Belarus imports most of its mineral raw materials, almost all of which comes from Russia and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Belarus, see the 1996 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, Mineral Industries of Europe and Central Eurasia.

TABLE 1  
BELARUS: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	
Cement	1,488	1,235	1,467	1,876 r/	2,035	
Nitrogen, N content of ammonia	550	670	680	590	685	
Peat (fuel use)	3,482	3,145	2,793	2,768 r/	2,035	
Petroleum:						
Crude	2,000	1,932	1,860	1,822 r/	1,830	
Refined	12,700	13,100	12,400	11,900	12,000 e/	
Potash, K <sub>2</sub> O content	3,000	3,200	2,700 e/	3,247	3,450 e/	
Salt 2/	metric tons	264,025	219,854	231,673	298,432	356,430
Steel:						
Crude	880	744	886	1,220 r/	1,412	
Pipe	10	12	19	31	35 e/	
Rolled	700	586	800	1,100	1,300 e/	
Natural gas	million cubic meters	295	266	249	246 r/	252
Sulfuric acid		291	437	549	698	700 e/

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Table includes data available through December 16, 1999.

2/ Includes byproduct salt from potash production.

TABLE 2  
BELARUS: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 1998

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating company	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity e/
Cement	Volkovysskiy plant	Hrodna (Grodna) region	2,200 1/
	Krichevskiy plant	Mahilyow (Mogilev) region	
Diamonds	Kristall plant	Homyel (Gomel)	NA
Nitrogen, N content of ammonia	Grodno "Azot" Association	Hrodna region	1,000
Peat, fuel use	Production at 37 enterprises producing mainly briquettes	All regions of country	5,000 2/
Petroleum, crude	Belarusneft Association	Hrodna region	2,000
Petroleum, refining	Mazyr refinery	Mazyr (Mozyr)	40,000 1/
	Naftan refinery	Navapolatsk (Novopolotsk)	
Potash, K <sub>2</sub> O content	Belaruskaliy Association	Soligorsk area	5,000
Steel, crude	Belarus electric steelworks	Zhlobin	1,200
Steel, pipes	Mahilyow metallurgical works	Mahilyow	80

e/ Estimated. NA Not available.

1/ Total for both facilities.

2/ Total peat for fuel use production.